

## **MINUTES**

### **NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION**

**NOVEMBER 6, 2008**

**LANSING CENTER  
333 E. MICHIGAN  
LANSING**

#### **PRESENT FOR THE NRC**

Keith Charters, Chair  
Frank Wheatlake, Vice-Chair  
Mary Brown  
John Madigan  
J. R. Richardson

#### **ABSENT**

Hurley Coleman  
Darnell Earley

#### **PRESENT FOR STAFF**

Jim Riley, Legal Counsel  
Rebecca Humphries, Director, DNR  
Rodney Stokes, Chief of Staff  
Dan Eichinger, Legislative Liaison  
Teresa Gloden, Assistant to the NRC  
Other DNR Staff

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**Chairman Charters** called the Committee of the Whole meeting of the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to order at 3:08 p.m.

#### **ISLAND LAKE SHOOTING RANGE UPDATE**

**Director Humphries** said litigation on the Island Lake Shooting Range resulted in support of the range. However, the DNR had a sound study conducted to determine noise levels coming from the range and to assess if there is anything that can be done to reduce noise coming from the range in an attempt to be better neighbors.

**Dennis Fox, DNR Recruitment and Retention**, reviewed the results of the Island Lake Shooting Range Sound Assessment as completed by Siebein Associates, Inc., from mid-April through September 30, 2008. **Mr. Fox** reviewed the following community relations efforts by the DNR:

- the range has been closed to operation on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Easter Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day, effective immediately;
- shooting sheds on the sporting clay course have been constructed and the consultant noted that they are beneficial;
- the use of 50 caliber bmg center fire or larger cartridge rifles have been prohibited;
- shotgun ammunition has been limited to 7.5-9 shot, maximum of 3.25 dram of power, and limited shotgun barrel length to 26 inches minimum (except for youth model shotguns).

**Mr. Fox** reviewed sound assessment options as described in the report. Options include:

- Full facility enclosure – This option may not be feasible due to the shooting range being approximately 60 acres;
- Construction of tall berms and walls – This option would drop the bottom of the range 20 feet and raise the berms 40 feet. It is estimated this would reduce sound only 0-3 decibels;
- Eliminating, moving or rotating select sporting clay shooting stations – This option may redirect the noise to other neighbors and would create an impact from the sun;
- Create sound absorbing shooting lanes at the rifle and pistol range – This option may create safety issues.

**Mr. Fox** said these recommendations will continue to be looked at and improvements will continue to be made. Options are somewhat limited, however. He said the most flexibility is with reorienting the shooting direction. **Director Humphries** said all of the recommendations are being reviewed.

### **INLAND FISHERIES GRANTS**

**Kelley Smith, Chief, Fisheries Division**, reported on June 11, 1987, the NRC approved guidelines for the Inland Fisheries Cooperative Grants Program. According to these guidelines, Fisheries Division will recommend projects to the NRC for approval each year. The Inland Fisheries Grant (IFG) Program process was initiated later than usual because program funding was not realized until late December 2007. Therefore, one application event was conducted with the goal of awarding up to two fiscal years worth of IFG funding (\$200,000 each for FY 2008 and FY 2009 for a total of \$400,000). One project was chosen to receive all FY 2008 funding, and this project already has a project agreement in place. Seven projects are being recommended to utilize FY 2009 funds, which became available on October 1, 2008. All of these projects have already received Administrative Board approval and are eligible for funding once approved by the NRC. The primary focus in both rounds of funding is on the management of dams. The primary source of funding from the DNR is through the Game and Fish Protection Fund.

### **DIRECTOR'S ACTION ITEMS - DISCUSSION**

**Fish Disease Control (FO-245)**: This Order will be held over as a "For Information Only" item on the December 2008 NRC Agenda as work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture continues.

**Parks and Recreation Land Acquisition, Union Lake Boating Access Site – Oakland County, Aggressive Marine Tract, Land Transaction Case #20080023**: The DNR is looking at acquiring this site on Union Lake and selling existing site for access and safety issues. **Ron Olson, Chief, Parks and Recreation Division**, said the property size is approximately the same; however, safety and ease of access is much better with the new location.

**Oil And Gas Auction Update**: **Tom Wellman, Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division**, reported on the Oil and Gas Lease Auction held on October 27, 2008. Approximately 263,250 acres were offered, of which 223,218 acres were bid successfully in 23 counties at an average bid of \$18 per acre. While this was a good outcome, it was lower than the auction revenue in May, 2008. The difference is due to the drop in commodity prices.

**Deer Check Stations**: **Director Humphries** urged the Commissioners to stop by deer check stations when they are in the area. A list of check stations was provided to the NRC.

**Don Bego, Certificate Of Appreciation**: **Ron Olson, Chief, Parks and Recreation Division**, presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Donald B. Bego who is the longest, private concessionaire in the 90-year history of the Michigan State Park system. **Mr. Bego** was a lifeguard at Dodge #4 State Park from 1953 to 1957 and started as a concessionaire at Pinckney State Recreation Area in 1958. Concurrently, he operated other concessions at Brighton State Recreation Area from 1958 to 1990 and Hayes State Park from the 1970s to the 1990s. **Mr. Olson** said his efforts prove that, through partnerships and public stewardship, the common goal to enhance outdoor recreation experiences and enhance stewardship of Michigan's natural resources can be achieved.

**Washington D.C. Report**: The Western Great Lakes Gray Wolves lawsuit challenged the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) decision to remove the gray wolf in the Western Great Lakes states from the endangered species list under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Based upon the documented recovery of the wolf population in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, the FWS determined that the gray wolf no longer met the definitions of threatened or endangered under the ESA. Michigan supported the decision to de-list and argued that the FWS action is consistent with law, the protection of the gray wolf, and represents an appropriate allocation of wildlife management responsibility between the federal and state governments and should be upheld. The court vacated the rule and remanded it back to the FWS, holding that the rule was defective under the Administrative Procedures Act. The DNR continues involvement in this case.

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The Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m. and the Public Appearances portion of the meeting convened at 4:05 p.m.

**Algonac State Park Natural Area Designation**

Kristen Turnbull and Megan Richardson from Representative Phillip Pavlov's office presented a special tribute, on behalf of the Representative, for the Algonac State Park Natural Area in recognition of its permanent protection under the Wilderness and Natural Areas Act of 1972.

**Chairman Charters** welcomed **Pat Stewart's** Michigan State University Communications for Fisheries and Wildlife Professionals class.

**PUBLIC APPEARANCES**

Bill Audette  
Dave Borgeson, Michigan Resource Stewards  
Michael Brownfield  
Marilyn Carr  
Guy Dobies  
Lillian Hopkins  
Jack LaBelle  
Steve Lawrence, Michigan Bow Hunters  
Bruce Levey, Michigan Bow Hunters  
John Malik  
Bill Manson, Michigan Snowmobile Association  
Peggy McDonald  
Ken Merckel, Michigan Steelheader and Salmon Fisherman's Association  
Daniel Minock, Sierra Club  
Ellen Nitz  
Will Vander Ende  
Jenness Wiegand

**Ellen Nitz** thanked the DNR for conducting a sound study on the Island Lake Shooting Range. She noted that the study recommends remedies that need to be taken seriously. She believes the sporting clays portion of the Range should be reduced and asked how long it will be before sound reduction is achieved.

**Ken Merckel, Michigan Steelheader and Salmon Fisherman's Association,** supports FO 247.09, Number of Fishing Rods on Michigan Waters, allowing fishermen the ability to use a maximum of three rods on all waters. He also supports increases in the daily bag limit from three salmon to five salmon.

**Jenness Wiegand** said her personal sound measures read over 65 decibels coming from the Island Lake Shooting Range. She said the Range is not a good neighbor.

**Bill Manson, Michigan Snowmobile Association,** discussed snowmobile funding and said the Association supports raising snowmobile registration and trail permit fees to ensure continued success of the State trails system. He said legislation has been introduced to do so.

**Lillian Hopkins** said the noise levels from the Island Lake Shooting Range continue to be high. She recommended that the Range concessionaire pay for the sound testing.

**John Malik** applauded efforts by the DNR to contain chronic wasting disease. He asked what the DNR intends to do about the noise levels and lead at the Island Lake Shooting Range. He recommended buying the Pontiac Silverdome and utilize it for a shooting range.

**Jack LaBelle** said the Island Lake Shooting Range placement was a wrong decision.

**Dave Borgeson, Michigan Resource Stewards**, recommended the NRC and DNR not support captive cervid and high fenced big game hunting operations.

**Bruce Levey, Michigan Bow Hunters**, does not support Axiom Entertainment's proposed to build an entertainment park in Grayling. He also opposes allowing crossbows during bow season.

**Bill Audette** believes expanded crossbow use during the bow season is a positive. He suggested full inclusion of crossbows and does not believe full inclusion will cause a shortened archery season. He is a crossbow user and it has expanded his hunting opportunities.

**Marilyn Carr** believes sound levels from the Island Lake Shooting Range are 20 points higher than ambient noise and Kensington Metro Park noise ranges from 70 to 90 decibels. She expressed concern with the effects on the Huron River from the shooting range.

**Michael Brownfield** has archery hunted for 34 years and does not believe allowing crossbow usage during archery season will increase hunter participation. He said a modified bow can be used. **Commissioner Madigan** questioned whether crossbow usage should be considered in high population areas to aid in reducing the population. **Mr. Brownfield** said the problem in southern Michigan is hunting access to private lands.

#### **PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION AWARD PRESENTATION – STEVEN SLUKA**

**Director Humphries** reported that Steven Sluka has been assisting the Department of Natural Resources with wildlife management on his property in Newaygo County for the past 18 years, and has restored the wetlands on his property on the Little Pere Marquette River. On these wetlands, Mr. Sluka has worked with the DNR Wildlife Division and the local Ducks Unlimited Chapter to capture and band hundreds of ducks. This year was one of his best with 149 ducks captured and banded in three capture attempts.

During these waterfowl banding events, Mr. Sluka shared his property and its waterfowl not only with the DNR but also friends, neighbors, acquaintances, and hundreds of youngsters. Mr. Sluka gives youngsters hands-on experience with wildlife as they hold and eventually release the banded ducks.

He has not only assisted the DNR in trapping ducks and geese, but has also trapped bigger game such as black bear. In 1997, he convinced the local wildlife researcher that there was a resident bear population in Newaygo County by live trapping an adult

sow with cubs. Mr. Sluka continued to trap and monitor radio collared bear in northern Newaygo County until the last collar was removed in 2003.

As with waterfowl banding, Mr. Sluka always shared bear research activities with local adults and youth to promote a better understanding and appreciation for wildlife.

For committing so much of his personal time to conserving Michigan's natural resources, **Director Humphries** thanked Mr. Sluka.

**Mr. Sluka** said it has been fun working with wildlife and with Wildlife Division staff. He enjoys getting as many kids as possible involved in his activities.

### **PUBLIC APPEARANCES (continued)**

**Steve Lawrence, Michigan Bow Hunters**, said crossbows are not bows. Crossbow hunters can hunt during firearm season, but he opposes using crossbows during archery season.

**Daniel Minock, Sierra Club**, is not opposed to firearms or hunting, but supports being able to live in a "natural world." He read several comments from individuals relative to the Island Lake Shooting Range. Most commented negatively on the noise coming from the Range.

**Will Vander Ende** opposes crossbow usage in archery season. He believes if crossbows are allowed during archery season, it will have a negative effect on the resources. He applauded the NRC's efforts on the modified bow and crossbow permitting process.

**Guy Dobies** lives  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile from the Island Lake Shooting Range. He asked what could be done to reduce noise at the Range and suggested a lower target angle; allow no home loads; and possibly use wind as a sound barrier.

**Peggy McDonald** asked for the opportunity to have dialog with the DNR relative to the Island Lake Shooting Range.

The Public Appearances adjourned at 5:31 p.m. and the Regular meeting of the NRC convened at 5:31 p.m.

### **COMMISSIONER DARNELL EARLEY**

**Chairman Charters** read a letter from Commissioner Darnell Earley that said because of the demands of his new responsibilities as President-Elect of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), he will not be seeking reappointment to the Natural Resources Commission when his term expires December 31, 2008. As President-Elect, his election requires a three-year time commitment to the national and international activities of the 9,000-member Association and its Executive Board of Regional Vice-Presidents.

In his letter, Commissioner Earley said the past three and a half years he served on the Commission have been very educational and rewarding. Serving that time has also allowed him to fulfill a personal goal that he has dedicated to his father's memory and to his legacy as a Michigan outdoorsman and sportsman. He thanked Governor Granholm for appointing him to the NRC.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – OCTOBER 9, 2008 NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING**

Commissioner Richardson made a motion, supported by Commissioner Madigan, for approval. Motion unanimously carried.

**SPRING WILD TURKEY SEASON UNITS, WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER, AMENDMENT NO. 19 OF 2008**

Commissioner Madigan made a motion, supported by Commissioner Wheatlake, for approval. Motion unanimously carried.

**FISCAL YEAR 2009 INLAND FISHERIES GRANT PROGRAM**

Commissioner Madigan made a motion, supported by Commissioner Brown, for approval. Motion unanimously carried.

**DIRECTOR'S ACTION ITEMS**

Director Humphries stated her intent to sign all of the Director's Action Items on the Agenda.

Commissioner Madigan said that FO-247, Number of Fishing Rods on Michigan Waters, standardizes regulations across Michigan.

Kelley Smith said the stream classification changes are based on surveys and data review.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**NRC Policy Committee on Technology, Information, Marketing and Education:**

This meeting convened at 10:15 a.m. on November 6, 2008. See attached Minutes.

**Crossbow Discussion:** This meeting convened at 12:00 noon on November 6, 2008. See attached Minutes.

**NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries:** This meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. on November 6, 2008. See attached Minutes.

The NRC meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

**MINUTES  
NRC POLICY COMMITTEE ON  
TECHNOLOGY, INFORMATION, MARKETING AND EDUCATION**

The meeting convened at 10:15 a.m. Commissioners Present: Mary Brown, Frank Wheatlake

**Archery in the Schools Program**

**Dennis Fox, Recruitment and Retention Section**, presented an update on the archery in the schools program and how the program is doing. He mentioned that **Mary Emmons, Recruitment and Retention Section**, is the only certifier for this program. The DNR would like to get regional coordinators who would contract with the DNR; the time frame to get the coordinators on board is in January.

**Becoming an Outdoor Woman (BOW)**

This program was established in 1994. **Mr. Fox** reviewed upcoming BOW events.

**Shooting Ranges**

**Mr. Fox** presented an update on six DNR ranges and their operation schedules.

**Recreational Safety**

**Mr. Fox** presented an update on hunter education, ORV, snowmobile, and the marine safety curriculum development.

**Hunter Recruitment and Retention Implementation Team Update**

**Mr. Fox** presented an update on the joint DNR/Michigan United Conservation Clubs work group on hunter recruitment and retention. He said hunting land maps are now on-line and are up-to-date. These can be downloaded so people have a hard copy. The work group and the DNR are discussing making the maps available in hard copy books but costs and the fact that they could be outdated before they even go to print are issues to address.

**Mr. Fox** presented an update on national efforts such as Task Force 20/20, to increase the hunting and target shooting participation through a coordinated recruitment and retention strategy and action plan. The goal of Task Force 20/20 is to increase participation in hunting and shooting by 20 percent over the next five years. The members of the Task Force would like to see the participation percentage back to the 1970s level.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.



**NRC POLICY COMMITTEE ON WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES**

**CROSSBOW DISCUSSION SUMMARY**

**NOVEMBER 6, 2008**

The discussion convened at 12:10 p.m.

**Present for the NRC:** John Madigan, J. R. Richardson, Keith Charters

**Commissioner Madigan** said that, earlier this year, the Crossbow Disability Work Group was established to address the permitting process for issuing crossbows to those with permanent disabilities. This process was completed, the Work Group recommendations were approved by the NRC, and the changes were in effect for the 2008 hunting season.

Under current regulations, individuals that have certain permanent disabilities which prevent their use of conventional archery equipment and have been certified by a physician, physical or occupational therapist, and have received a crossbow permit issued by the DNR, may use a crossbow to hunt game.

**Dennis Knapp, Assistant to the Resource Management Deputy**, said an informal, non-scientific survey was put on the DNR web site with four options being considered relative to hunting with a crossbow:

- Option A: Retain the status quo and change nothing.
- Option B: Establish a minimum age for crossbow use.
- Option C: Make crossbows legal for any hunting season or species for which a firearm is legal.
- Option D: Create a separate deer season for crossbows.

**Mr. Knapp** said that, in addition to choosing one of the above options when taking the survey, several responders only fill out the comment section stating they want full-inclusion.

**Commissioner Madigan** requested that Wildlife Division staff present information at the December NRC meeting regarding how the DNR would survey/monitor potential crossbow use, and provide information from other states on their crossbow use with respect to resource impacts and hunter behavior (recruitment/retention).

**Commissioner Madigan** intends to have recommendations back to the full NRC by spring 2009.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Jeff Kunkle** said Ohio has more archery hunters than Michigan and has no age limit. He encouraged full inclusion of the use of a crossbow to include young as well as older hunters.

**Dave Borgeson, Michigan Resource Stewards**, said an early bow season provides for quality deer and part of quality is degrees of difficulty in harvesting the deer. He urged caution when considering an early crossbow season.

**John Sullivan, Michigan Bow Hunters**, requested a report of the biological impacts of allowing crossbow hunting during bow season; questioned whether there would be an increase in hunters if crossbows were allowed during bow season; and does not consider crossbows as archery equipment.

**Steve Lawrence** is 62 years old and has had surgery on both shoulders and has modified his archery equipment to allow him to hunt during archery season. He does not support using crossbows during archery season. He believes archery skills need to be reviewed when considering allowing individuals to use crossbows during bow season.

**Bruce Levey, Michigan Bow Hunters**, expressed concern with the crossbow survey in that individuals can complete the survey more than once; asked if all inclusive also means small game; and questioned the impact from the loss of archery hunters in Michigan.

**Merle Shepard, Safari Club International**, believes the NRC should make the decision on crossbows based on science and if the deer herd can take the additional pressure, he supports. He suggested not labeling crossbows as archery equipment; suggested that age be considered; and recommended reviewing recruitment and retention issues. He noted that outdoor activity participation is down and additional hunting opportunities may get more individuals into outdoor activities.

**Robert Morgan** is a retired tool and dye worker and began hunting with a bow in 1969. He said he acquired his bow hunting skills through practice and hard work. He said he would buy a crossbow if there was a crossbow season established. He appreciates the apprentice license that allowed his 12 year old grandson to hunt with him.

**Millard Holton** questioned how many permitted crossbow hunters exist and recommended putting that question on the hunting license applications. He supports crossbows as an accurate and lethal hunting tool.

**Tim Minge** said a significant number of hunters are buying crossbows.

**Ed Ingvartsen** believes allowing crossbows during archery season will affect all hunting seasons and believes crossbows increase buck harvest. He believes the increased harvest will outweigh the additional recruitment and retention benefits.

**Dean Hall, Michigan Bow Hunters**, said both hunter recruitment and retention and time to hunt are a problem causing a drop in hunters. He noted that from 1998 to 2007, the antlerless harvest dropped from 200,000 thousand to approximately 150,000. He expressed concern with the “full inclusion” option.

**Dave Robb, Ten Point Crossbows**, supports crossbow hunting during the archery season.

**Peter Sfarro** recommended an open archery season to include the crossbow, and expand crossbow hunting to include all persons older than 60 to 65 years of age.

**Rebecca Park, Michigan Farm Bureau**, supports the use of crossbows during archery season.

**Amy Spray, Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC)**, supports the use of crossbows but not during archery season, per MUCC Policy. The MUCC Board of Directors has not given support, however, to a separate season or a minimum age. She believes if disability was marketed better, seniors would be able to qualify for a crossbow permit. The MUCC supports option C (make crossbows legal for any hunting season or species for which a firearm is legal).

**Cecilia Gilson, DNR Licensing**, said in 2008, 18,045 crossbow licenses existed. In 2007, there were 313 licenses issued to hunters over 65 years of age, and in 2008, 614.

From August 14 to November 1 in 2007, 1002 crossbow licenses were issued. For the same time in 2008, 1262 licenses were issued.

**Commissioner Madigan** asked that staff develop statistics and evaluations on each of the options offered earlier in the meeting.

**Dennis Knapp, Assistant to the Resource Management Deputy**, said that comments received on the crossbow survey included: older hunters don't want to be classified as disabled; the new crossbow permit rules are confusing; and that this is providing youth a good hunting opportunity.

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

## MINUTES

### NRC POLICY COMMITTEE ON WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

Commissioners Madigan and Charters were present for the Committee. Commissioners Richardson, Brown and Wheatlake were also present.

#### **Statewide Trout, Salmon, Whitefish and Lake Herring Regulations**

**Kelly Smith, Chief, Fisheries Division**, reviewed the proposed regulations and said the salmon bag limit would change from a limit of three back to a limit of five. He said the Charter Boat Association is not in favor of this change. Fisheries Division intends to track bag limits to help determine future bag rates. Catch rate data information was presented and catch rates are up. He said regulations could change yearly based on the records of catch rates. The charter industry is comfortable with that idea.

**Mike Bailey, Wildlife Division**, presented two amendment proposals as part of the chronic wasting disease surveillance and response plan.

- Wildlife Conservation Order, Amendment 17, would replace the Director's Interim Order #3. It provides three alternative options for wild deer rehabilitation in the state. Option B appears to fit well with information received from the Michigan Wildlife Rehabilitation Association. **Russ Mason, Chief, Wildlife Division**, explained that the Rehabilitation Association is willing to work with the DNR using Option B as the best option to suit both needs.
- Wildlife Conservation Order, Amendment No. 20 of 2008: Taxidermy permit regulations enhance record keeping requirements. Records must be kept for six years. Biosecurity measures will be required. A letter will be sent to all taxidermists with information on biosecurity needs to help explain this requirement. A Type 2 landfill will be required as a proper method of disposal. Taxidermists will be prohibited from giving out animal parts for use as bait and will be prohibited from allowing live animal exposure to taxidermy materials or waste products. **Dennis Knapp, Assistant to the Resource Management Deputy**, said this proposal was sent through the Michigan Taxidermists' Association. Comments are welcome.

#### **Enforcement**

**Dean Molnar, Law Enforcement Division (LED)**, said enforcement of the Wildlife Conservation Order is a key priority. Aerial surveillance and patrol efforts have increased. The LED has received many complaints, and investigations have resulted in more citations than in past years. Complaints on baiting and feeding have increased dramatically. The LED is starting to see smaller bait piles. Sportsmen seem to be in support of the ban by calling in and reporting complaints. Use of scents has increased.

**Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Update**

**Dr. Steve Schmitt, Wildlife Division** presented updates on CWD:

- Testing will increase during firearm seasons. To date all tested free ranging deer have been negative for CWD.
- 588 deer have been tested in the CWD Surveillance Zone which is the most important area; 1200 deer tested in Kent County outside the CWD Surveillance Zone; 1340 deer tested in other counties surrounding Kent County; 2400 free ranging deer tested in remaining counties. Some moose and elk have also been tested and all were negative for CWD. Also, 2300 captive cervids (white-tailed deer and elk) were tested, and all were negative for CWD.
- A graph showed the number of hunters purchasing licenses and the number of kill tags purchased are similar to past years. There does not appear to be evidence of people not purchasing deer licenses in Michigan due to CWD or the baiting ban.
- Initially, there was a quarantine placed on all captive cervid facilities. Approximately 130 captive cervid facilities have been released from the quarantine so far. Criteria for quarantine and release has been developed.
- Six town hall meetings have been held where questions arose about prion diseases, quarantine, the baiting and feeding ban, and what the DNR was doing to make sure the disease wouldn't spread in the facilities and to the wild. Most people seemed to be in support of the baiting ban.

**Shannon Hanna, Wildlife Division**, presented an overview of POC Producers' Marketing Act, P.A. 190 of 2000, as amended. This Act classifies privately owned cervids as livestock and delegates authorities between the DNR and Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA).

Authorities under this Act include:

- Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) authorities include: health issues and disease testing; supplying official animal identification; livestock inventory orders; livestock destruction orders; orders related to movement of live cervid or cervid products; and issuing quarantines.
- DNR authorities include: Administration of the Act in consultation with MDA and the Department of Environmental Quality; registrations, inspections, renewals, modifications, decommissions, and enforcement of captive cervid facility regulations; and includes enforcing MDA orders regarding movement, importing, or exporting of cervid or cervid products.
- Changes to the Law since 2000: Executive Order 2004-3 transferred most of the regulatory authorities to the DNR; a work group revised operational standards following an audit of the industry; and P.A. 190 was then amended in 2006.

Currently, operational standards require every facility to have a 10 foot fence and conduct weekly fence inspections. The decommissioning protocol was outlined and two forms of animal identifications are required. Records need to be retained for seven years.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

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Approval: \_\_\_\_\_

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Keith J. Charters, Chairman

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Rebecca A. Humphries, Director